Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/421367908



Downloaded on Mar 29, 2024

# Sirois' wit not enough in Le Patriote opening

By CARMEL DUMAS
for The Gazette

Last night's opening at Le Patriote en Haut's new season was disappointing although the audience seemed quite pleased with the easy jokes and the all too familiar performances of well-known actors like Beatrice Picard and Jacques Bilodeau.

But one expected much more from Dodo l'Enfant do, written and directed by young Serge Sirois.

Le Patriote en Haut had presented Sirois' successful comedy about the winning lots-ticket dream, Un jour ce sera notre tour, (Some day it will be our turn) last April, and Sirois' work at Le Centre d'essai of the University of Montreal and in several Quebec theatres places him among the promising figures in Quebecois theatre.

Dodo l'Enfant do is a variation on the "I'm leaving home, I've had it" theme with no new element. It could be a really bad Michel Tremblay play, or a really good reproduction of daily cliches. Sirois has wit, but with a subject as complex as family relationships, wit is not enough.

TAKES OFF

One Sunday morning, the daughter who lives with her husband, her parents and her two brothers, decides to take off. Three years as a virgin married woman, watching her frustrated mother, is more than she can take. Ginette Lafreniere is ordinary in the ordinary role.

No sooner has Fifille done her bit, then out comes her younger brother Bebe, played by Marcel Lauzenaut.

He's leaving too, going to Florida to train as a professional baseball player. The mother, Beatrice Picard, wants to hold on to her baby, while the father, Jacques Bilodeau, argues that 18 is more than old enough to try things out.

Before leaving, Fifille attacks her other brother, Marco (Robert Lavoie), a faggot who likes to look at nude athletes in magazines and play games with his younger brother.

There's a shouting match between them all to allow everyone to say how unhappy they are, except for Fifille's simple-minded impotent husband, played with sensitivity by Reynald Bourbard, the only actor who stood out in the play.

FLASHBACKS

At the end of the first act, even the mother is packed and gone, leaving her husband alone to think it all over and take pity on himself.

The second act is more interesting, as the characters come back in flashbacks of how this family's life has always gone wrong. No place for love, no place for understanding. Sirois is certainly negative about relationships. But there doesn't seem to be any motivation for his characters' bitterness.

Dodo l'Enfant do is a very short play, and maybe that's why it doesn't quite work.

Too many things are happening on a much too superficial level. That can be good in a comedy, but not in a play that tries to go deeper into cultural and human attitudes.

For a few minutes, towards the end of the play, there is a real emotional peak: Beatrice Picard comes back to her husband Jacques Bilodeau. "I'm too old to stay with my parents, and too old to run around," she says.

EMOTION

They sit together on the bed, and he says "No, you're not too old." But they have nothing more to say, and he slips out with his suitcase while she puts her apron back on. Why?

The play runs at Le Patriote en Haut through Oct. 12.

# Dassin's way with music makes tunes sound alike

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
for The Gazette

The best way to begin describing Joe Dassin, who opened a four night stand at Salle Wilfrid Pelletier last evening, is to state that he is one of France's very biggest pop stars.

From there on, it's downhill, because French pop music is impoverished. There is only one Aznavour, Brel, and Mathieu — the rest of the hit parade is dominated by the genre of singer of which Joe Dassin is tops.

Looks help — and Joe has it all, starting with eyes which stay wide open and pierce the night. Those eyes dominate the covers of his records, he's always looking off into the horizon.

Then, there's the body — slim, bronzed, packed solid in the right places. He doesn't mind hiding it. He trotted out last night wearing white formfitting shirt, trousers, and shoes. If the many women in the full house got tired of gazing into his eyes, there were other places to look.

Dassin has a nice deep mellow speaking voice but when he starts singing it's as if he's still talking. He has very little range and he cannot hold notes long, so the songs are most rudimentary.

Joe's intentions are alright. After all, he's a man of the world. Son of film director Jules Dassin, he lived in the U.S. during college days at Ann Arbor, then reclus-covered Europe, travelling to the major capitals and returning to France to abandon a career in medicine for the life of a pop star.

Thus, his songs reflect simple distillations of his experience: Love, romance, sadness, the brotherhood of man, and Parisian go-go music.

There's a streak of folklore here and there: Joe can make all kinds of music sound the same. He even has an album of songs especially for the provincial record audience, entitled Pour Mes Amis Quebecois, which features the huge current hit, L'été indien.

He was accompanied by eight musicians and two female singers who made sure everything was in place musically for Joe. But they played — and looked — as if they were asleep (which is probably the best way to churn out this lamentable background).

Joe Dassin doesn't complain. He doesn't have to listen to his own music. With that Riviera suntan, those crystal eyes and a big smile, his presence reminds us how sweet it is to be a famous pop star in France.

## Ministers hit FCC 'Networks shunning public'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Three ministers yesterday set out to convince the U.S. Federal Communications Commission it should get rid of the "exploitation of sex and violence" on television and radio.

Representing Morality in Media, an interchurch group whose watchwords are "love, truth and taste," the ministers are Rabbi Julius Neuman and the Revs. Morton Hill and Wilfrey Link.

Hill and Link were members of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, which filed a report former president Richard Nixon rejected as too liberal. Hill and Link filed a minority opinion.

The three ministers came to the FCC with a petition signed, they said, by 100,000 persons who believe the public has been shunned by both the networks and the FCC." They asked for public hearings across the country.

In a statement, the ministers criticized the FCC for approving the networks' limited self restraints such as the "family hour," which limits sex and violence in early evening shows, but not at other times.

They conceded the problem has no easy solution, but said the FCC should at least consult the public.

"The thought of government intervention in programming content is odious to everyone," the statement said. "But there must be public consultation in this area, for the public owns the airwaves."

The ministers said they conducted their own hearings last may in Sioux City, Iowa, and Nashville, Tenn.

Some of the testimony summarized by the clergymen:

● "Young or amiable viewers can learn a modus operandi for burglary, rape, arson ... TV is a 'school' of violence."

● "(Television) presents a ballroom burner 'mad of so outgrew when we were in kindergarten'."

● Sex talk embarrasses young people when younger brothers and sisters are viewing.

● "The TV industry should be encouraged to depict experiences that are enriching. There must be a return to the hero image."

# Suit against Murray seeking $2.5 million

KANSAS CITY — (AP) — Singer Anne Murray is being sued for $2.5 million by Harry Peebles, a Wichita, Kan., promoter who alleges she broke her contract to appear Aug. 22 at the Missouri Fair.

Peebles, who has booking agencies at Wichita and here, also named Allan Strait of Beverly Hills, Calif., Murray's business manager; Marvin Josephson Associates, Inc., of Los Angeles, and Alive Enterprises, Inc., of New York, firms which handle booking and business arrangements for the singer.

Peebles accused the defendants of engaging in "an illegal and unlawful conspiracy" to break a contract they entered into last January so that the singer "could appear elsewhere under more advantageous terms."

The suit was filed in U.S. district court.

Copyright © 2024 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

Powered by Newspapers.com